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ABSTRACT

Four issues of a newsletter on recent library statistics provide information on Colorado school library media centers, as well as census data on state and local government library spending. A 1994 survey of school library media centers reveals a lack of adequate library media staffing in half of the public elementary and secondary schools. According to another 1994 library survey, Colorado school library media centers are taking a leading role in providing electronic access to information and teaching information literacy. The 1990/91 and 1991/92 preliminary census data on government finances indicates that state and local expenditures for education and libraries are not "keeping pace" with total expenditures by those levels of government. A 1995 survey that compared information from the previous year found that technology of all types is more widely available in library media centers and library media staff participation in standards-based education continues to increase at modest rates; the practice of having classes of students visit library media centers on a fixed schedule appears to be falling sharply. (AEF)

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FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 104 September 1, 1995

HALF OF COLORADO SCHOOLS LACK ADEQUATE LIBRARY MEDIA STAFFING

A 1994 survey of school library media centers (LMCs) in Colorado revealed several alarming facts about the adequacy of their staffing. Most of these facts are even more alarming when compared with the latest available data on LMCs nationwide.

Highlights from Table 1:

- Almost one out of three public schools in Colorado does not have a library media specialist. Nationwide, only one out of five schools lack such a position.
- In Colorado, two out of five elementary schools and one out of five secondary schools lack library media specialists. Nationwide, the odds of finding such a position at those levels are twice as good.
- On the other hand, only about one percent of the state's schools have no library media personnel at all, compared with more than eight percent nationwide.
- All of the state's schools without any library media personnel are at the elementary level. They account for two percent of elementary schools. By contrast, almost eight percent of elementary schools and almost seven percent of secondary schools nationwide lack such staff.

Table 1. Colorado Schools With LMCs But No Staff, 1994

	Schools without library media specialists			Schools without library media specialists or aides		
	N	%	US %	N	%	US %
All public schools	433	33.1	17.9	14	1.1	8.1
Elementary schools	312	39.3	20.2	14	1.8	7.8
Secondary schools	122	23.6	9.6	0	0.0	6.9

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The status of library media staffing in Colorado's schools looks even poorer if one applies the 1988 **Information Power** standards of the American Association of School Librarians and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology. According to that document, the minimum recommended staffing for a school library media center is one full-time library media specialist and one full-time aide.

Table 2. Colorado Schools Without a Full-Time Library Media Specialist & a Full-Time Aide

	Schools without full-time library media specialist & full-time aide		
	Number	Percent	US Percent
All public schools	655	50.0	27.6
Elementary schools	194	37.6	15.9
Secondary schools	461	58.1	31.2

Highlights from Table 2:

- Half of all Colorado public schools do not meet the **Information Power** minimum staffing guidelines. Nationwide, only a little more than half of public schools fail to meet this standard.
- More than one in three elementary schools in the state have sub-standard levels of library media staffing, compared with only about one in six nationwide.
- Surprisingly, at both state and national levels, secondary schools are about twice as likely as elementary schools to fail this staffing standard. Two out of five secondary schools in the state have sub-standard levels of library media staffing, compared with about one in three nationwide.

Notably, the two data sources cited above are not contemporary. The state survey collected 1993-94 data, while the national survey collected 1990-91 data. However, the differences between the state and national results are unlikely to be attributable entirely to these different time frames. Federal data on library media centers for 1993-94 will be available before the end of calendar 1995. This analysis will be repeated with that data.

HOW MANY SCHOOLS CAN COUNT THE SAME LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST?

Items in the staffing section of the state survey asked schools to report the number and typical weekly hours of BOCES or contract staff. Statewide, such staff were counted 134 times, but the total full-time equivalency for them was nine--9.0. These data suggest there may be nine BOCES or contract library media specialists who are "circuit-riding" among an average of 15 school library media centers each.

FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 105 September 1, 1995

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS ARE LEADERS IN PROVIDING ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION & TEACHING INFORMATION LITERACY

According to a 1994 LRS survey, Colorado school library media centers (LMCs) are taking a leading role in providing electronic access to information and teaching information literacy. Following are a few highlights from the survey's results:

- ☐ Of the state's 1,300-plus LMCs, 78 percent have touch tone telephone service and 69 percent have microcomputers and modems--the on-ramp and the vehicle, respectively, required to take to the information superhighway.
- ☐ Two-thirds of LMCs have electronic catalogs of their print and non-print holdings. Statewide, non-print collections in LMCs include: over 150,000 videos, over 75,000 computer software packages, almost 8,000 reference works on CD-ROM or laser disk, over 4,000 subscriptions to electronic indexes, and almost 3,000 subscriptions to electronic full text.
- ☐ Almost half of LMCs use their computers and modems to make available the Access Colorado Library & Information Network (ACLIN).
- ☐ Over a quarter of LMCs use this technology to search remote databases online.
- ☐ Almost a quarter of LMCs provide Internet access to staff with one in five extending such access to teachers and staff and one in six extending it to students.
- ☐ During a typical week in 1993-94, over 900 library media specialists and over 1,000 other LMC staff made over 30,000 contacts with students to teach them the information skills they will need to be successful lifelong learners.
- ☐ More than three out of four schools are developing information literacy standards and integrating them with content standards, and more than two-thirds of LMCs report that their staff are involved in these developments.

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FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 106 September 1, 1995

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PUTTING LOWER PRIORITIES ON EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Preliminary Census data on government finances for 1990/91 and 1991/92 indicate that state and local expenditures for education--elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and other educational programs--and libraries are not keeping pace with total expenditures by those levels of government. In other words, the already meager slices of the state and local government fiscal "pies" going to schools, colleges, adult education programs, and libraries are getting even smaller.

When state and local government expenditures are taken together:

- Spending on libraries grew at less than one-fifth the rate of state and local expenditures.
- Spending on other educational programs grew at barely half the rate of state and local expenditures.
- Spending on elementary and secondary education increased by just over three dollars for every five dollars of new expenditures at those levels.
- Overall education spending increased by only 68 cents for every additional dollar of state and local expenditures.
- Spending on higher education increased by only 87 cents for every additional dollar of expenditures at those levels.

When state expenditures are examined alone:

- Spending on libraries grew at only one-fifth the rate of total state expenditures.
- Spending on other educational programs grew at less than half the rate of total state expenditures.

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- Overall education spending increased by only 66 cents for every additional dollar of state expenditures.
- Spending on higher education increased by only 70 cents for every additional dollar of state expenditures.
- Spending on elementary and secondary education appears to have driven increases in state expenditures, running at 97 cents to the dollar, respectively.

When local expenditures are examined alone:

- Spending on libraries increased at less than one-third the rate of total local expenditures.
- Spending on higher education increased at just over one-third the rate of total local expenditures.
- Overall education spending increased at 93 cents for every additional dollar of local expenditures.
- As at the state level, spending on elementary and secondary education appears to have driven increases in local expenditures, running at 97 cents to the dollar, respectively.

Three accompanying tables report data extracted from two Census Bureau reports on government finances:

- U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Government Finances: 1990-91 (Preliminary Report). GF/91-5P. Issued January 1993.
- U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Government Finances: 1991-92 (Preliminary Report). GF/92-5P. Issued August 1994.

TABLE 1
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR
EDUCATION & LIBRARIES, 1990/91-1991/92

	State and local government		
Item	1990-91	1991-92	Percent Change
Total Expenditures	$1,063,797,482	$1,150,454,145	8.15%
Education	$309,666,531	$326,769,910	5.52%
Elementary & secondary education	$218,006,926	$228,916,936	5.00%
Higher education	$78,748,664	$84,328,876	7.09%
Other education	$12,910,941	$13,524,098	4.75%
Libraries	$4,442,137	$4,509,905	1.53%

TABLE 2
STATE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR
EDUCATION & LIBRARIES, 1990/91-1991/92

	State government		
Item	1990-91	1991-92	Percent Change
Total Expenditures	$628,835,510	$701,669,224	11.58%
Education	$80,468,304	$86,650,112	7.68%
Elementary & secondary education	$1,997,405	$2,221,660	11.23%
Higher education	$65,559,958	$70,904,354	8.15%
Other education	$12,910,941	$13,524,098	4.75%
Libraries	$281,635	$288,174	2.32%

TABLE 3
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR
EDUCATION & LIBRARIES, 1990/91-1991/92

	Local government		
Item	1990-91	1991-92	Percent Change
Total Expenditures	$623,435,624	$655,325,380	5.12%
Education	$229,198,227	$240,119,798	4.77%
Elementary & secondary education	$216,009,521	$226,695,276	4.95%
Higher education	$13,188,706	$13,424,522	1.79%
Other education	(X)	(X)	(X)
Libraries	$4,160,502	$4,221,731	1.47%

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FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 107 September 1, 1995

1995 STATISTICS ON SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS IN COLORADO: A FIRST LOOK

During Spring 1995, a second annual survey of school library media centers in Colorado was conducted. Of the 235 LMC sample, 153 returned completed forms for a response rate of 65 percent. (This 18 percent drop from last year's response is attributed to poor scheduling of the survey's original administration, a mistake that will not be repeated for the balance of this five-year series.)

Following are some preliminary 1995 results from three major sets of questions and how they compare with 1994 results:

Table 1. Technology Available via Library Media Centers

Type of Technology	1995	1994	% Change
Touch-tone telephone	88%	78%	13%
Computer with modem	84%	69%	22%
Access to ACLIN for LMC staff	76%	49%	55%
Access to ACLIN for teachers	74%	47%	57%
Access to ACLIN for students	65%	42%	55%
Photocopier in the LMC	65%	43%	51%
Online searching of remote databases	59%	29%	103%
Internet access for LMC staff	57%	24%	138%
Locally automated, stand-alone catalog	56%	46%	22%
Internet access for teachers	51%	21%	143%
Fax machine in the LMC	43%	18%	139%
Internet access for students	37%	16%	131%
District-wide automated catalog	28%	23%	22%

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Highlights:

- Technology of all types is more widely available in LMCs.
- The greatest increases in access to technology are those which hold the greatest promise for creating more equitable access to information: the fax machine, Internet access, online searching of remote databases, and the availability of the Access Colorado Library & Information Network (ACLIN). The availability of all of these technologies via LMCs more than doubled.
- Even technology-poor LMCs are more likely to have approached the on-ramp of the information superhighway. Modest increases in computers with modems, local and district-wide catalogs, and photocopiers in the LMC were also reported.

Table 2. Type of Access to Library Media Centers

Type of access	1995	1994	% Change
Students visit the LMC independently	98%	99%	-1%
Classes visit the LMC on a flexible schedule	91%	84%	8%
Classes visit the LMC on a fixed schedule	44%	58%	-24%

Highlights:

- The practice of having classes of students visit LMCs on a fixed schedule appears to be falling sharply. Almost one-quarter fewer LMCs report being accessed this way.
- The practice of having classes of students visit LMCs on a flexible schedule increased by a more modest eight percent.
- Virtually all LMCs report being accessible to students independently.

Table 3. LM Staff Involvement in Standards-Based Education

Type of involvement	1995	1994	% Change
Involved in standards development at building/district level	69%	64%	8%
Developing standards for information literacy	83%	73%	14%
Integrating information literacy with content standards	87%	77%	13%

Highlights:

- Participation in standards-based education efforts by LM staff–which was impressively high last year–continues to increase, but at fairly modest rates. Nine out of ten LMCs report developing information literacy standards and working to integrate them with content standards.

Technology Available via School Library Media Centers in Colorado, 1995